पैमाने पर 2.5 से अधिक न थी। दिल्ली मुरादाबाद, सोहना तथा अरावली भ्रंशों के निटक स्थित हैं जो स्थानीय झटकों को उत्पन्न करते हैं।

(ख) इन झटकों की वजह से जान-माल की किसी हानि की रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है।

(ग) स्थान, समय एवं परिणाम को ध्यान में रखते हुए वैज्ञानिक तौर पर खासी सटीकता के साथ भूकंप का पूर्वानुमान लगाना संभव नहीं है। भूकंप को रोकने का कोई भी प्रमाणिक तरीका नहीं है।

Smuggling of genetic resources

1367. DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI SOLIPETA
RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States was indulging in large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources and then patenting them to the detriment of our economy; and

(b) the measures taken to check such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No complaint has been received; genetic resources in the public domain are not patentable.

(b) A national legislation to regulate access to genetic materials is under formulation.

Planetary Features Similar to Earth

1368. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest finding that Jupiters moon, Ganymede has feature similar to the earth;

(b) if so, the information available with Government about this; and

(c) in what manner will this information be useful for scientific research in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The spacecraft Galileo has been studying the planet Jupiter and its moon very closely for more than a year. The Ganymede is seen to have magnetic fields associated with it extending into the space. Scientists conjectured that its magnetic field may have its origin similar to that of the magnetic field of the earth. Such studies are of great interest and useful for scientific research in India to understand the origin of the magnetic fields of Planets, stars, galaxies etc.

Autonomy to Scientific Establishments

1369. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to improve the Research and Development in Science and Technology; and

(b) what steps are taken for more autonomy in scientific establishments in the country and taking them away from the bureaucratic framework?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Several initiatives have been taken to improve research and development in Science & Technology. Some of these are:

Increased support to S&T in successive Plans for pursuing R&D efforts through the various S&T

Departments/agencies and socio economic Ministries.

- R&D support to scientists in priority areas of Research.
- Encouragement to Young Scientists; Fellowships for training in India and abroad in specialised and advanced areas of research, increased fellowship amounts for Junior and Senior Research Fellows, Research Associates and others.
- Creation of National research facilities and Strengthening of basic infrastructure for research.
- Special support for research in less endowed academic institutions.
- International collaborative research programmes and opportunities to use large scale research facilities abroad.
- Tax incentives for promoting R&D in industries.
- Scheme to enable National Research laboratories and Institutions to seek funds for R&D from Industries and reward them with matching grants.
- Recent initiative in the form of **Swarna Jayanti Fellowships** on the occasion of 50th year of Independence, for supporting outstanding scientists to attain world class levels in science.

(b) The S&T organisations and establishments have flexibility in their functioning and have their own Research Councils and Governing bodies to provide guidance and dirctions.

Steps to popularise science and technology

1370. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) The details of steps taken/contemplated to popularise Science and Technology at school level;

(b) details of methodology of popularising Science and Technology; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that results of research are faithfully transferred to agriculture and industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The Government has been popularising Science & Technology (S&T) at school level through a host of programmes that include developing adapting and promoting diverse methodologies for the purpose. The agencies engaged in popularisation of S&T at school level include the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT) under Department of Education, MHRD, National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) under Department of Science & Technology, and National Council of Science Museums under Department of Culture, MHRD; and at the state level, the State Directorates of Education and Departments of Science & Technology.

(b) The basic methodology consists of reaching school children directly or through media and engaging them in activities which would trigger an interest in science and help them nurture and retain a scientific outlook. This is achieved through programmes like the annual National Children's Science Congress, production of films and TV serials for school children, scientific toys/kits, and publications on scientific topics. National Science exhibitions, organised every year by NCERT at the state and national levels have contributed in children's involvement with innovative project activities in S&T. The NCSM is engaged in setting up national, regional, state and district level science centres